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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/540,828	03/31/2000	Yuval Ofek	07072-097001	2351

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MIKE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/540,828

Applicant(s)

OFEK ET AL

Examiner

Mike Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,3 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23 are pending for the examination.

Drawings

2. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Double Patenting

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 1-14, 16, 17-23 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of copending Application No. 09/539,966. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because "a plurality of first director boards", "a plurality of second director boards", and "a crossbar switch" would be obvious to be included in the system interface, or the data storage system in order to provide more reliable in transferring data of system interface and to protect against total system failure in the event of a failure in a component or subassembly of the storage system.

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This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,214,768).

7. As to claim 1, Martin teaches a system interface comprising:

a plurality of first directors (see figure 1 elements 14, 16, 18, 19 and column 5 lines 20-26);

a plurality of second directors (see figure 1 element 48 and column 5 lines 49-58);

a data transfer section having a cache memory, such cache memory being coupled to the plurality of first and second directors (see figure 2 elements 82, 92 and column 7 lines 25-34 and figure 7 and column 14 lines 4-18);

a message network, operative independently of the data transfer section, coupled to the plurality of first directors and the plurality of second directors (see figures 1 element 40); and

wherein the first and second directors control data transfer between the first directors and the second directors in response to messages passing between the first directors and the second directors through the message network (see column 7 lines 35-62) to facilitate data transfer between first directors and the second directors with such data passing through the cache memory in the data transfer section (see column 7 lines 63-68 and column 8 lines 1-18).

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8. As to claim 2, Martin teaches the system interface recited in claim 1 wherein each one of the first directors includes:

a data pipe coupled between an input of such one of the first directors and the cache memory (see figure 3 elements 138, 140, 142, 144 and column 10 lines 56-62);

a controller for transferring the messages between the message network and such one of the first directors (see figure 1 and column 5 lines 63-68 and column 6 lines 1-11).

9. As to claim 3, Martin teaches the system interface recited in claim 1 wherein each one of the second directors includes:

a data pipe coupled between an input of such one of the second directors and the cache memory (see figure 8 element 316 and column 15 lines 62-66);

a controller for transferring the messages between the message network and such one of the second directors (see figure 2 elements 40, 62, 48).

10. Claim 4 is of similar scope as claim 3 and is therefore rejected under same rationale.

11. As to claim 5, Martin teaches the system interface recited in claim 1 wherein each one of the first directors includes:

a data pipe coupled between an input of such one of the first directors and the cache memory (see figure 3 elements 138, 140, 142, 144 and column 10 lines 56-62);

a microprocessor (see figure 3 elements 124, 126, 128); and

a controller coupled to the microprocessor and the data pipe (see figure 2 elements 40, 122) for controlling the transfer of the messages between the message network and such one of the first directors (see figure 1 and column 5 lines 63-68 and column 6 lines 1-11) and for

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controlling the data between the input of such one of the first directors and the cache memory (see column 8 lines 10-18).

12. As to claim 6, Martin teaches the system interface recited in claim 1 wherein each one of the second directors includes:

a data pipe coupled between an input of such one of the second directors and the cache memory (see figure 8 element 316 and column 15 lines 62-66);

a microprocessor (see figure 3 elements 124, 126, 128); and

a controller coupled to the microprocessor and the data pipe (see figure 2 element 40, 122) for controlling the transfer of the messages between the message network and such one of the second directors (see figure 2 elements 40, 62, 48) and for controlling the data between the input of such one of the second directors and the cache memory (see column 15 lines 44-58).

13. Claim 7 is of similar scope as claim 6 and is therefore rejected under same rationale.

14. Claims 8-14 are of similar scope as claims 1-7 and are therefore rejected under same rationale.

15. As to claim 15, Martine teaches a method for operating a data storage system adapted to transfer data between a host computer/server and a bank of disk drives (see figure 1 element 10), such method comprising:

transferring messages through a message network (see column 7 lines 35-62) with the data being transferred between the host computer/server and the bank of disk drives through a cache memory (see column 7 lines 63-68 and column 8 lines 1-18), such message network being independent of the cache memory (see figures 1 element 40).

16. Claim 16 is of similar scope as claim 1 and is therefore rejected under same rationale.

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17. Claims 17-23 are of similar scope as claims 1-7 and are therefore rejected under same rationale.


Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-5040 or e-mail is mike.nguyen@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The appropriate fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7240.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached on (703) 308-3301.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Mike Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2182

10/28/2002